

# SPKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

AUGUST 14, 2000

## What's Inside



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# Project to benefit rural youth

By Julie Porter

A new initiative by the private sector and the Ontario government is aimed at creating graduates who will bring new skills to the workforce and contribute to rural economic growth.

The Rural Youth Job Strategy project will include seven full-time information technology diploma/certificate training programs and 10 courses at Conestoga College developed for students in the Waterloo Region and Wellington, Perth, and Huron counties.

The announcement of the programs was made Aug. 1 at a press conference at the college.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Web site at [gov.on.ca/omafra](http://gov.on.ca/omafra), the Rural Youth Job Strategy will pave the way for businesses, entrepreneurs and entire communities.

It will allow rural youth to get the skills to contribute to their communities, and will allow them to seek jobs closer to home.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural

Affairs, the Rural Job Strategy fund was started after many public consultations which resulted in participants raising concerns about employment opportunities for rural youth.

"This is not just about creating jobs but ensuring youth in rural areas are on equal par with their urban peers."

*Ernie Hardeman,  
Ontario minister  
of agriculture, food and  
rural affairs*

The project will work to make alliances and partnerships for Ontario rural youth aged 15 to 29.

Through the initiative, Conestoga College will expand information technology programming to allow students to access the school through the Internet.

Conestoga Students Inc. contributed \$625,000 to the project.

CSI president Phil LeBeau said that he felt the initiative was

worthwhile for students.

"You know how sometimes when you are at home, and the need arises to access the college. You can take classes at home, access your college e-mail or obtain mark listings from your home computer. It's a great opportunity for students," said LeBeau.

"If a teacher is going to be absent for a class, instead of the whole class showing up, the teacher can e-mail the students to let them know," said LeBeau.

John Tibbits, Conestoga College president, said that the initiative was important because it allowed students to stay in their communities and contribute to the high-tech industry.

He said it was valuable to invest in rural areas, and that the future of the country is dependent on creating a strong technology base.

"This is how Canada will move forward," said Tibbits. "We need to provide programs like this to keep our booming economy strong."

Tibbits said that the program will develop new Web-enabled programs that will be available to all Ontario citizens.

"Rural citizens will have access to programs they might not otherwise have access to," said Tibbits.

Tibbits also said that the CSI had an enormous role in getting the initiative started, a role he said was even bigger than the Royal Bank's.

"They (CSI) recognize that there is a tremendous opportunity for growth," said Tibbits.

At the press conference, Ernie Hardeman, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs, quoted author Alice Walker, famous for writing *The Colour Purple*, saying that we must keep in mind that the present we are constructing today is the future we want to live.

Hardeman said that the rural youth job strategy and Conestoga College will create the skills sought after in the future, and will greatly enhance the opportunity for learning. He said it was an incredible opportunity for students.

"This is not just about creating jobs but ensuring youth in rural areas are on equal par with their urban peers," said Hardeman. "Ontario as a whole will share in the dividends of a highly skilled workforce."

# Surprise death claims student

40-year-old dies of heart-attack

By Tracy Ford

The name of another Conestoga College student, Ralph Logan, will be added to the memorial plaque in the Sanctuary after he suffered a heart attack on July 27.

A father of four, Logan was a 40-year-old student in the engineering/robotics and automation program and was completing his co-op placement this summer before returning to college in the fall, according to Casey Johnson, a close friend of his for six years.

"He did nothing but bend over backward for me," Johnson said. She described an incident where he lent her his computer after she was accepted into York University. She was a struggling single mother and the computer came at a time when it was most needed. She said he figured it was better if she had it because he could do his work at the college. "He never asked anything in return," Johnson said.

Logan and Johnson met while attending upgrading classes at the Waterloo campus in 1994 and then

both of them entered Conestoga's general arts and science program at Doon.

After completing the program, Logan was accepted into the engineering/robotics and automation program. Johnson was accepted into the journalism program and later graduated. In an article written about him by Johnson in Spoke in June 1998, he said he would be happy with any job as long as it enabled him to work with machinery.

Logan suffered his first heart attack in 1997 and had a learning disability associated with attention deficit disorder.

"A lot of people at the college knew him," Johnson said. She also said his family is still grieving his loss. "He did everything for everyone else."

"If he could help someone he would," she said. Once Logan drove to York University from Mount Forest, a two-hour trip, to take Johnson to see her ill grandmother. "He knew it was upsetting me that I couldn't see her."

## Keeping watch



Andrew Jozefowicz, from security services, sits beside a barricade that blocks the college's main road while workers complete maintenance work on Aug. 3.

(Photo by Tracy Ford)

## High gas prices help wrong people

Someone is making money off the increase in gas prices and you can be sure it isn't someone who really needs it.

It isn't as if the gas cartels are a lowly lot — they aren't the ones working two jobs to make ends meet. They aren't single mothers trying to make it to work on time in the morning.

No. They are the ones driving the swanky cars, living it up in first-class seats on flights bound for Madrid, Morocco, or the Bahamas.

Just look at the Maritimes' own masters of the monopoly board — the Irvings, one of the Maritimes' richest families who own just about every gas station from the New Brunswick-Quebec border to the farthest tip of Newfoundland. Do you think the price hikes at the pumps has them eating half-price bologna from the local corner store instead of their usual prime cuts of beef. Think again.

**In St. John's, Nfld., motorists paid a whopping 87.9 cents per litre for regular gasoline in June.** Those whom the federal government's moratorium on fishing

have left standing in welfare lines and living in outposts that look at best like shanty towns are always, it seems, the ones who are paying the highest gas prices. Seems strange when the enormously successful Hibernia Oil platform lies just off the province's shore.

But bureaucracy and political debauchery have seen to it that only a very small margin of Newfoundlanders see any of the benefits of the country's largest oil refinery and the massive profits of Hibernia are certainly not reflected in the prices of Newfoundland's gas bars.

One oil analyst attributed the high price to consumers to an increased demand during the summer season. Truckers in Ontario have faced a 60-per-cent increase in the cost of diesel since February. Premier Mike Harris responded to the problem by saying that he'd look into it, but added that the public might as well just give up on trying to change the 14.7-cent flat tax the government scoops up from every litre of gas.

Oil companies are blaming the spike in prices on a worldwide drop in oil production that has depleted inventories. Others think that perhaps gas and oil bigwigs are taking the humble consumer for the ride of their lives.

Shell Canada reported that it reaped second quarter profits of \$168 million. It reported that its earnings were up 90 per cent in the quarter that ended in June. Right about the same time that Newfoundlanders were paying 87.9 cents a litre.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien replied to pleas to the federal government to put a cap on the rising pump prices by passing the issue off as a problem that no one has any control over. Chretien said, "We live in a market economy. These prices have increased around the globe. In fact, the level of taxation by the federal government on these products is the lowest in the world."

Deverell expects that Canadians will be happy about this.

Environmentalists hoped that Canadians would react to this summer's increase in gas prices by car-pooling, but that didn't happen. People kept driving single-occupant cars.

Truckers created blockades, activists tried to boycott certain gas stations, but nothing created any results.

It is a perfect example of how this market economy that Jean Chretien extols the virtues of makes some richer, but a lot more simply much poorer.

Tv Guide

ALL NEW!

Who wants to be the  
Big Brother  
of a  
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who  
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## What's wrong with pot?

Don't be afraid — this is not another diatribe from a lost Generation Xer extolling the virtues of a good joint once in a while. It is not a message from a '60s has-been lost in a haze. It is simply a message from someone who is confused about what all the hoopla and fear is about marijuana.



Julie  
Porter

Listening to the news, one often hears alcohol being used to rationalize the violent and destructive behaviours of members of society who find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Deaths caused by the combination of alcohol and a vehicle have spurned massive anti-drinking and driving campaigns which our tax dollars are used to float. Groups like MADD (mothers against drunk driving) have formed to stop the senseless slaughter of children by people so intoxicated and stupid that they don't take a cab home.

Often in domestic assault cases one hears the phrase "alcohol involved" uttered, and in one highly publicized rape case, the accused

used intoxication as others use temporary insanity as his plea.

When consumed in excess, alcohol eats away at the liver, poisons clear thinking and makes us throw up the next day.

"He got so drunk he didn't know what the hell he was doing" and "She was so wasted that she passed out in the cab on the way home" aren't so foreign to the vocabularies of high-school and college kids.

And yet our culture condones the use of alcohol and it even encourages it. We use it to wind down and to wind up, all the while knowing that the use of the magic liquid could get us into some very hot water.

We go to bars to drink it (paying obscene prices) and children raid their parent's liquor cabinet to make up a "jungle juice" to get them wasted on a Friday night.

Which brings us to the lowly marijuana leaf. When was the last time you heard of someone smoking marijuana and then becoming violent?

When was the last time you heard of someone getting into a car under the influence of marijuana and then ploughing down a family of four. Probably not recently — most probably, not ever.

It is fairly well known that mari-

juana makes nobody angry or bitter.

Did Cheech and Chong look like they wanted to kill someone? Were the flower children called flower children because they regularly smoked a joint and then blew somebody's head off?

Instead of poisoning one's body, marijuana has been used to quell the pain of terminally ill people.

In Canada, according to medicinal marijuana lobbyist Bernard Bigras, there are 120,000 people suffering from cancer, 280,000 suffering from epilepsy, 50,000 suffering from HIV and AIDS and 50,000 suffering from multiple sclerosis, all illnesses where marijuana can be used to make the lives of the sufferers more tolerable.

And yet while the uptight down gin and tonics after work to "take off the edge" and then get into their cars, another set of the uptight condemn the use of marijuana as an evil drug which should be kept illegal and in the ghettos.

While alcohol is rampant and lethal, it seems hardly fair that those who wish to indulge in a little pot-smoking to mellow out in a non-destructive way or stop the intense nausea and vomiting that accompanies many serious illnesses are considered criminals.

# SPOKE

## Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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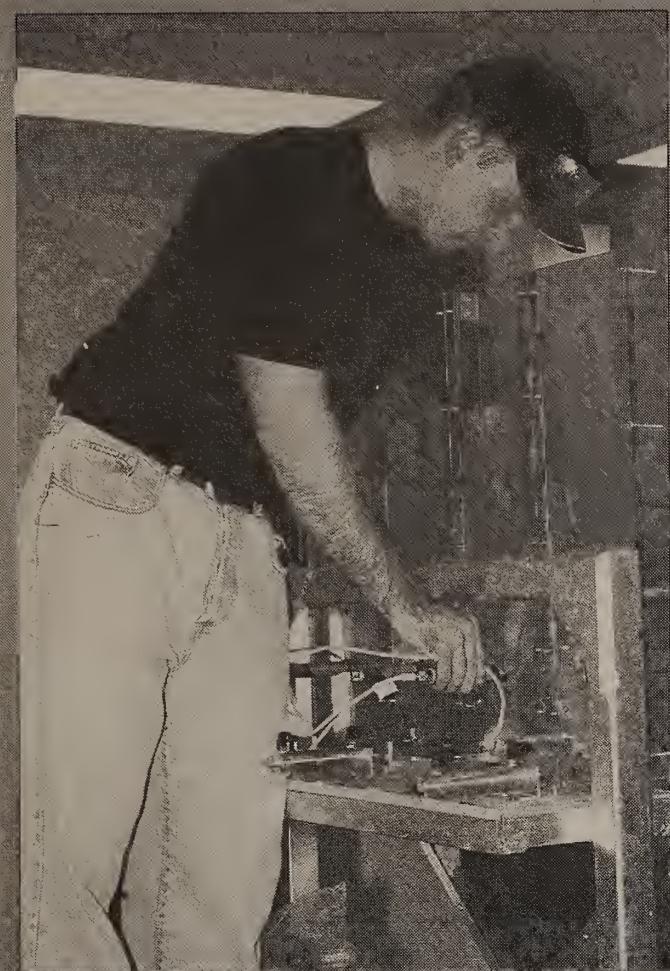
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## Project work



Florin Bugescu, a robotics engineering student, works on his third-year project in room W9 in the woodworking building on July 28. (Photo by Tracy Ford)



## Coffee Break

## Cafeteria may lose business to Tim Hortons and McDonald's

By Tracy Ford

The construction of a Tim Hortons coffee shop and McDonald's fast food restaurant across the street from the Doon campus could mean more students will be venturing off campus for lunch and coffee during class breaks.

"Certainly, I find increasingly lots of students bring coffee onto campus," said Anne Charles, a politics teacher at Conestoga.

Charles said during the summer she has a three-hour class with robotics engineering students. When she gives her class a 20-minute break in the middle of the three hours she finds a lot of students leave campus to grab a coffee at the Tim Hortons coffee shop in the Pioneer Park Plaza on Homer Watson blvd.

A medium cup of regular coffee in the cafeteria costs \$1.10 for 12 oz. and a medium cup of coffee at Tim Hortons cost \$1.10 for 10 oz.

"I find in the summer there isn't a lot of choice (in the cafeteria)," Charles said. "I am sure it (a closer Tim Hortons) will make a big

difference."

John Kast, food service director for Conestoga's cafeterias, said he hopes the effect of a closer Tim Hortons and McDonald's to the school's cafeterias is minimal.

"We already have very competitive prices," said Kast, "so our prices are already in line with those places."

Kast said the types of food available in the cafeteria are different

**"I'd much rather go half a kilometre to get good, cheap food."**

*Jay Connely,  
student*

than those offered at major food service chains. "We have a wide variety of deli sandwiches, wraps, stir fry. It's really a different line than what they would carry," said Kast.

He said the students who love Tim Hortons coffee will travel to get it no matter how far it is, so a closer Tim Hortons won't change

much.

"Roasters will be affected, no doubt about it," he said.

"I suppose while the weather is nice, some or more students will venture across the street," said Kast.

There is no way to tell how much the two restaurants will affect food services at the college until they open, said Kast. "We'll just have to find out in September."

Jay Connely, a third-year robotics engineering student in Charles's class, said Roasters should be open during the summer.

He said he feels the cafeterias don't leave students much choice and he said he finds the prices expensive.

"I think he (John Kast) needs to rethink his situation, especially with the prices," he said. "I'd much rather go half a kilometre to get good, cheap food."

Connely, who grabs a coffee from Tim Hortons on his way to the college and then another coffee during his break, said he only goes to Roasters for a hot chocolate. "Their (Roasters) coffee isn't that great."

## Choclair to perform at Conestoga College

By Petra Lampert

Hip Hop artist Choclair is booked to perform at the college's recreation centre on Sept. 13.

Final concert details were discussed at Conestoga Students Inc.'s (formerly the Doon Student Association) board of directors meeting on July 26 in the Cross Roads Room.

Choclair is set to perform with fellow artists Kardinal, Jilly Black and Baby Blue Soundcrew at the licensed event. Tickets will sell for \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

In other meeting business, Brad Whiteford, the CSI's vice president of operations, said the CIBC bank has asked the CSI if they would be interested in participating in the annual Run for the Cure.

The run would take place on the college's campus on Oct. 1 and money raised would be used to support cancer research. Student volunteers will be needed to help

raise funds for the cause.

During the meeting the CSI also discussed its clubs policy. At present, the CSI does not sanction any cultural, religious, or political clubs but discussed the possibility of supporting cultural or religious groups. The CSI allots \$800 for a club budget.

Members from the CSI volunteered to tend bar for a RCMP banquet which was scheduled to be held at the college on Aug. 12. CSI members who are not yet trained in the smart serve program were to be trained July 31. It's mandatory that the CSI servers receive training before legally serving alcohol at college events like concerts and banquets. In order to become certified in smart serve, CSI members must watch a video and complete a test marked by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission.

The next board of directors meeting will take place Aug. 16 at 8 p.m.

## CORRECTION

In the July 31 edition of Spoke, in the front page story titled, Print shop may be contracted out, print shop employee Vince Alviano was quoted as saying production increased from five million copies in 1995-96 to seven million copies in 1999-00. In fact, Alviano said the increase was from five to 11 million.

Also, Michelle Pfeiffer's name was incorrectly spelled on page 7 in the review of *What Lies Beneath*.

Spoke regrets the errors.

# Winners announced

Keith Pritchard scholarship awarded to keen students who exhibit strong motivation and a desire to learn

By Tracy Ford

Conestoga College has named this year's winners of the Keith Pritchard Scholarships.

The awards usually are presented annually to one first-year student and one second-year student, but this year three students were chosen to receive cash awards to be used for further tuition.

"We did have some extra money in the fund, so we decided to have a runner-up," said Carol Walsh, administrator of financial aid, student scholarships and awards.

David Poidevin, a student from Cambridge enrolled in the computer engineering technology program (formerly the electronics engineering technology - computer systems program), won the first-place award of \$2,000 to be put toward his second year of study in the 2000-01 school year.

Mark Peeters of Zurich, a student in the computer engineering technology - telecommunications program, received the \$700 runner-up award to go toward his second year of study.

Jeremy Ladan of Waterloo, a student in electronics engineering technology - telecommunications systems, receives the \$700 runner-up award that will go toward his third year of study.

**"They are not necessarily high academic achievers. What we are looking for is a good rounder."**

*Carol Walsh,  
administrator of financial  
aid, student scholarships  
and awards*

The award, which was created by Pritchard's company along with the money received from the Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund, is presented to Conestoga's electronics students who demonstrate creativity in the learning process and leadership qualities.

The decision, made by the faculty of the program, is based on the student's promotion to the

following year of study, as well as the student's demonstration of creativity and leadership among peers.

The winning student must show a financial need and have good academic standing.

"They are not necessarily high academic achievers," Walsh said. "What we are looking for is a good rounder."

The scholarship was established in the memory of Pritchard, a graduate of the college's electronics engineering technology program, after his sudden death in 1996.

Pritchard graduated in 1971 and began his career in business. He won a Canada Award for Business Excellence - Innovation.

In 1992 he became president of S-S Technologies, an internationally recognized firm in communications and simulation technology for the control automation industry.

"He (Pritchard) had a keen interest in learning," said Walsh, adding that the winner's qualities resemble the qualities Pritchard possessed, including strong motivation and ability to obtain good marks.

**Flower power**



Richard Hoover from maintenance does some weeding in a flower bed by the recreation centre on July 25.

(Photo by Petra Lampert)

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## Quality Policy

*Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.*

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# Tree planted to recognize youth employment support

By Julie Porter

To give recognition to the community that supports it, the K-W Career Connections (KWCC) planted a maple tree in Waterloo Park on July 27.

This new tree-planting event was started by the Nova Scotia branch of Career Connections to show appreciation for Canadians who support the goal of increasing opportunities for youth.

Several local dignitaries, including Kitchener Centre MPP Wayne

Wettlaufer, Kitchener South Ward city councillor Tom Galloway, and Kitchener Centre MP Karen Redman attended the event.

About 20 youth from local summer programs were there to witness the planting of the tree and eat pizza at the picnic afterwards.

Wettlaufer began the ceremony by asking the assembled youth what their parents' job were.

He asked if anyone present had a parent who worked in the plumbing or electrical fields. He went on to ask about teachers, doctors and finally computer work.

"High-tech is the future. The future of this country lies in the technical trade area," said Wettlaufer. "I recommend that you consider technical work and that you develop your communication skills. It is incredibly important to your community that you know how to communicate."

Galloway, who was representing Kitchener mayor Carl Zehr, said that he felt that great opportunities for youth were available in the K-W area.

"I employ 40 students every summer," said Galloway. "I can attest to the benefit of employers hiring students."

Galloway said he worked every summer of his youth, including a job at a golf course for minimum wage, so he knows what it is like to be a student looking for work, and wished the youth good luck.

Redman said Canada must constantly support initiatives to find good employment for youth.

Chris Bates, co-ordinator of student employment for Kitchener-Waterloo, said that the KWCC elected to participate in the tree-planting because it was a symbolic event that represented Canada's young people and their future.



From left, Kristi Griffiths, Kathryn Verhulst, Kitchener city councillor Tom Galloway, Kitchener Centre MP Karen Redman and Kitchener Centre MPP Wayne Wettlaufer, plant a maple tree for KWCC's tree-planting event in Waterloo Park July 27.

(Photo by Julie Porter)



Kristi Griffiths (left) and Kathryn Verhulst, student employment officers, address the crowd gathered at the KWCC's tree-planting event on July 27. (Photo by Julie Porter)

He said he hoped that those in attendance would come to visit the tree in Waterloo Park and remember it was planted to symbolize the future's opportunities.

Kathryn Verhulst and Kristi Griffiths, student employment officers, planted the maple tree after the speeches and then started the group in the singing of O Canada.

According to Griffiths, the tree planting was important to draw attention to student employment.

"Having a tree-planting event is a way of getting out into the community and being visible," said Griffiths.

She said that tree planting not only benefits the community but also promotes environmental awareness.

She said 40 youth employment

offices across Ontario participated in the event, and that in planning the event, organizers looked for something that could be done on a national scale.

"The event needed to be something that could be easily adaptable and done just about anywhere in Canada," said Griffiths. "The Maple Leaf was chosen because it is easily recognizable as Canada's national symbol."

She said the KWCC has a lot to offer students looking for work year-round.

"If you come into the office looking for work, the first thing we'd do is take you on a tour of the facilities offered," said Griffiths. "If you needed help putting together a resume, we can help you do that.

We have 20 computers with Internet access and a special program specializing in resume writing."

Griffiths said students could find work in everything from lawn mowing to a job as an administrative assistant:

She said the KWCC offers a service called the Odd Job Squad that finds temporary work for students who register with the service. Once a student signs up, the KWCC will phone them and tell them of the work possibility and then the student can follow up. Often, Griffiths said, these jobs are one or two days of labour.

Griffiths said it is possible for a student to find full-time work in the summer that becomes a part-time position during the school year.

## New siding



Jamie Holdam, from ICI Steel-Tech Inc., puts new siding on the recreation centre on July 25. (Photo by Petra Lampert)



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# Former student exhibits photos

Local photographer is this month's guest artist at Kitchener Public Library

By Petra Lampert

A former Conestoga College journalism student's photography is on display at the Kitchener Public Library.

Darko Zeljkovic, 36, of Kitchener, is this month's guest artist at the library. The exhibit, his first, opened Aug. 1 and will hang in the Concourse Room, in the lower level of the main library, until Aug. 30.

Zeljkovic studied print journalism at Conestoga and after his third semester transferred to the photo-journalism program at Loyalist College in Belleville. He graduated in May and is now freelancing at the London Free Press.

Georgina Green, co-ordinator of events planning at the library, said she likes Zeljkovic's work and thinks it's a great addition to the guest artist series.

"His photos are pretty amazing," she said.

Green was the first person at the library to see Zeljkovic's work and brought it to the attention of the other staff who decided which artist they will feature.

Green said the library began its guest artist series a couple of years

ago because staff realized that there were wonderful local artists who don't get a chance to exhibit in other places in town.

She added the library is a good place for local artists to showcase their work because there is a wide spectrum of people coming into the library.

**"His photos are pretty amazing."**

*Georgina Green,  
co-ordinator of events  
planning at the KPL*

Zeljkovic said his exhibit at the library is only one step in his goal.

"This is just the beginning," he said.

During December 1999 and January 2000, Zeljkovic travelled to Bosnia and Yugoslavia where he photographed Gypsies.

He said the crushing poverty and misfortune of the colourful Gypsies shocked him so much that for the first time he wanted to try to help someone with his photographs.

"I wanted to tell their story," said

Zeljkovic. "A lot isn't known about them. They're hated. In 10 years of conflict in Yugoslavia you never hear anything about the Gypsies."

Pat Fiskvatn, a senior graphic designer at the library, who hosted the opening night of Zeljkovic's exhibit, said she admires his work. She added Zeljkovic has captured the Gypsies' story well with his portraits.

Zeljkovic said he hopes his photo essay will increase awareness among Canadians and that it will help people see beyond the existing stereotypes about Gypsies.

He said he took all the photographs for his exhibit in three weeks and used almost 100 rolls of film, including slide film.

Zeljkovic said his ultimate goal is to work for National Geographic magazine, or a similar publication.

"I'm a journalist before anything else," he said.

Equinox has approached Zeljkovic and shown an interest in publishing his photos and a 5,000-word story on the Gypsies.

Zeljkovic said he also wants to do a book on Gypsies and track them from their place of origin. He said his main interest lies in documentary photography.



Darko Zeljkovic stands in front of one of his Gypsy photographs at his exhibit at the Kitchener Public Library.

(Photo by Petra Lampert)

"I want to try myself as a war photographer, shoot at least one war."

Zeljkovic is originally from

Bosnia, but immigrated to Canada during the Bosnian civil war in December 1992 and has lived in Kitchener since 1996.

## Conestoga turns down the heat

By Petra Lampert

Changing the college's air system over from heating to cooling for summer is not as simple as flicking on a switch.

In fact, according to physical resources manager Barry Milner, it's an involved process that can take up to two weeks.

He said the changeover from heating to cooling was done in May this year and is normally done the same time each year, depending on the temperature and the long-range forecast.

Milner said it usually takes a week or more just for the water in the system to cool down.

"It depends on how warm or cold it is," said Milner. "It depends on the weather. If it's cooler outside, the water will cool down faster."

He said once the chiller is turned on it usually takes two days for the cool air to be felt.

Milner said it normally takes a staff of five to complete the changeover.

The physical resources department keeps track of the weather, especially from mid October to April, for the heating changeover and other work like snow clearing.

Water is cooled or heated at the boilerhouse, across from Door 5, and pumped over to the main building. Fans circulate the air to classrooms and offices in the college.

There are three large boilers for the whole building that heat the water and one chiller that cools it.

All the other buildings on campus have rooftop units that supply the cooling and heating.

Milner said the temperature can be controlled somewhat easier in these buildings.

Each year all the pumps, boilers and the chiller are inspected.

He said in order to change from heating to cooling, maintenance workers must allow the pump water to cool down first, since the same water is used.

Milner said there's about 30,000 US gallons (about 120,000 litres) of water in the heating system and about 15,000 US gallons (about 60,000 litres) in the air conditioning system.

"There's a great amount of water to cool down," he said, adding that the heat has to naturally dissipate out of the water and the pumps also need to be changed over.

The same process is followed in the fall, around the second week in October, except reversed, said Milner.

The boilers are fired up and the water is brought up to temperature to heat the building.

He said cool water can go through the boiler and by that time the water temperature has risen.

Milner said in a year the college spends about a quarter of a million dollars for utilities.

From 1998 to 1999, the college spent \$117,278 on water; \$834,384 for hydro; and \$243,175 on gas.

"Utilities are a major part of our budget," he said.

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## Kim Stockwood rocks Elora Quarry with songs

By Jes Brown

Canadian singer Kim Stockwood says that the strangest venue she ever performed at was playing privately for 12 millionaires but the most intriguing venue had to be the Elora Festival.

On July 27, Newfoundland native Stockwood and her band were ferried out to an anchored floating stage in the middle of the Elora quarry to play for the assembled crowd.

She started off with her current single, Still, and went through hit after hit throughout the night.

The fantastic music was punctuated with Stockwood's quirky sense of humor as she told stories, teased her band and swatted mosquitoes.

After singing her hit You and Me, Stockwood took a break to get "Offed again" — one of her band members sprayed her with bug spray — and she commented that she'd been warned about the possi-

bilities of eating bugs on stage. She also said she thought the bugs liked Off and wondered why it couldn't smell like strawberries.

Then she looked up at the audience, sitting over 30 metres above her at the top of the quarry, and said "You guys are gonna go home tonight and say 'yeah, Kim Stockwood was great but she's out of her mind.'

She may have been out of her mind between songs but each one was as good as the last and her segues kept everyone laughing and excited.

She relayed one story about her gig playing

for 12 millionaires.

She asked her father what she should do and his advice was to wear a tight dress and sing Elvis songs.

Stockwood confided that was just what she did and ever since, when she's nervous she will still follow his advice. So in her short, tight purple dress, Stockwood sang Suspicious Minds.

The venue of the quarry was interesting but made it difficult to see Stockwood because she was 30 metres or so below the audi-

ence. The sound was fine, as there was little reverberation off the quarry walls.

Stockwood wore her bathing suit under her dress for the performance and was quite pleased that it gave her a place to put her guitar pick, though she asked that no one tell because her mother might find out.

The band was almost all in bathing suits under their concert clothes and guitarist Kevin Foxy was the first to show the audience why.

Stockwood gave Foxy the choice — sing a solo or jump in the quarry. Foxy stripped down to his bathing suit and chose the water over the microphone. Stockwood made him sing anyway.

Stockwood made every member of her band sing and each of them had to come up with a popular song to add to the growing medley. The audience was serenaded with everything from Jingle Bells to Sexual Healing to I Want It That

Way.

Before playing the song that skyrocketed her career, Stockwood told another personal story about how she was about to give up on Toronto and music and go back to Newfoundland. She asked God for a sign, something to keep her in the business. Not long after that, Stockwood's best known song, Jerk, began climbing the charts.

"All I can say," said Stockwood, "is thank God for each and every Jerk."

To end the concert Stockwood sang Will I Ever, a song she wrote with Randy Bachman and performed on New Year's Eve 2000 in St. John's, Nfld., with her father playing accordian.

Then she and all but two members of her band stripped down to their bathing suits, jumped into the water and swam to shore.

It made an encore pretty impossible but definitely left a lasting impression, as does Stockwood herself.



Kim Stockwood

## Shallow teen movie won't impress anyone

By Tracy Ford

Morgan Creek movie productions has done it again. It has filled its niche in the motion picture industry by creating another shallow teen flick with no merits except the characters' fashion sense.

The In Crowd is a movie about a woman, Adrien, played by Lori Heuring, who is brought into an exclusive social circle of high class university students while working at their country club. Raving jealousy ensues when Adrien begins dating a tennis professional who is the boyfriend of the girl who brought her into the in-crowd. And so, like in all teenage suspense thrillers, the girls from the in-crowd begin to show their darker side and seek revenge.

The plot, which contains no originality, is dull. The success of

these types of movies is minimal and the producers seem to bring them together quickly, but moviegoers would be better off not seeing these poor excuses for films. Not only is the plot's dullness a flaw but the lack of believability of the situations and the decadence of these children is hard to ignore.

Scene after scene this cast wanders in and out of character, showing no actual effort while trying to portray these whiney rich kids half the actor's actual age.

This movie would have been better off being produced directly for cable or video rental stores, if made at all.

The cast, a bunch of dreary-eyed and lip pouting girls, barely succeed in bringing this horrible script to life, and give terrible performances to complete the never-ending stream of pathetic teen genre



Laurie Fortier (left), Nathan Bexton (middle) and Mathew Settle star in *The In Crowd*, which shows a life of lavish decadence but the script is unbelievable and shallow.

(Internet photo)

movies. There is nothing worse than a group of wanna-be Jennifer Love-Hewitts and Drew Barrymores parading around a ritzy set acting like they should be given an academy award for their

empty performances. The entire cast should look for another line of work.

The merits of this movie are minimal. The cinematography is fairly straightforward, so in this age of

special effects and multi-billion dollar movies this recent release isn't going to impress anyone, nor will it reel in any legitimate positive reviews no matter what the movie poster says.

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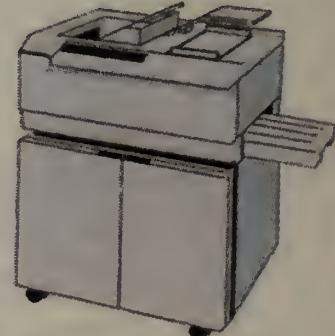
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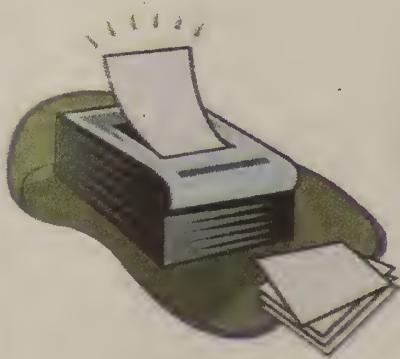
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